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### WMC unveiling 'new looks' via integration with UM

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IMMEDIATELY

WMC UNVEILING 'NEW LOOKS'  
VIA INTEGRATION WITH UM

stauffer/ds/jg  
9/8/77  
state + cs +

DILLON---

Western Montana College, Dillon, merged in a historic affiliation with the University of Montana, Missoula, is gearing for an eventful 85th year in the Montana University System with the advent of 1977 fall quarter.

Inaugurating the autumn slate are registration and freshman orientation Sept. 19-20 on the Dillon campus, followed by resumption of classes at WMC on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Complementing its role as a teachers college, Western will be unveiling a new educational era, underlined by expanding offerings and student services stemming from the UM integration process mandated by University System Regents in 1976.

Highlighting the "new looks of Western" is the introduction of 16 specialized courses secured through an innovative articulation program with the Missoula university.

As outlined by the WMC-UM Joint Program Planning Committee, students enrolling for articulated study are provided options of one, two or three years on the Dillon campus, followed by transfer to the University of Montana.

Coordinated courses opening this fall at Western span such fields as biology, botany, computer science, forestry, foreign languages, geology, geography, home economics, journalism, three areas of mathematics, microbiology and medical technology, pharmacy, political science, pre-medical sciences, and zoology.

Further expansion of Western's program base will be proposed during a regents' meeting Monday, Sept. 12, in Helena.

At that time, WMC president George Bandy reports, approval will be sought for a new degree program in natural heritage and for board designation of Western as a rural education center, each of which will complement and support WMC's traditional role in teacher education.

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"Both can be implemented at minimum cost," Bandy explained, "and, since integration is themed to maximum utilization of facilities and resources, these programs represent a logical foundation for increased enrollment."

Bandy noted that during recent years, Western's student count has been adversely affected by the narrow restrictions of its teacher education curriculum, compounded by declining enrollment in education-related programs.

Fall quarter will also witness the debut of numerous other offerings and integrational dividends on the Dillon campus.

Through cooperation with UM, Western is instituting Army ROTC as an extension of the University program.

A sports medicine option will be available for students interested in careers as athletic trainers in public schools.

Faculty exchanges, highly successful throughout the initial stages of affiliation, will be continued on a broadening scale. Assignments already confirmed for autumn quarter include two UM doctoral candidates who will provide services in guidance, counseling and testing for WMC faculty, staff and students.

Reducing the number of freshman dropouts is the motivation behind a new integration project entitled "More Options for Students" (MOST). Registrants electing early withdrawals at either WMC or UM will be fully apprised of transfer options at Dillon or Missoula to assist them in retaining their collegiate interests and careers.

Further upgrading in student services is evident in WMC-UM coordination of such areas as placement services, library facilities, bookstores, health services, and an interchange of programs spanning music, art, and drama.

Terming the integration program "enormously complex and time-consuming," Bandy said the studies have stimulated positive thought as well as ideas that have applicability to the Montana University System as a whole.



"After one year of concentrated effort," he points out, "the Joint Program Planning Committee feels that affiliation potential has been barely scratched. Many more positive steps are yet to come.

"But, the most important benefit is--and will be--improved service to students on both campuses and that, in the long run, represents the ultimate goal of our educational process in Montana," Bandy said.

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